

DUNCAN FRY WRITES 'THE BOOK'

Finally, the authoritative P.A. handbook, written without mumbo-jumbo!

This is the book everyone has talked about writing LIVE SOUND MIXING by Duncan Fry is the answer for anyone on a learning curve, and that's you and me, Marmaduke! For several years now, the cry has gone up, "when's the book coming out, Duncan?" and the guy finally has done it.

164 pages, quarto sized, and professionally produced, the book gets right down to business without stuffing around with theory. It is not a technical book, nor need it be.

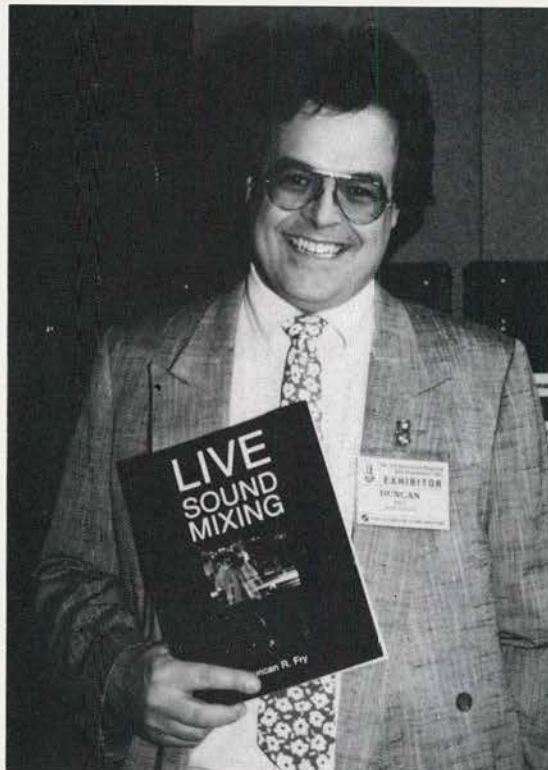
Basic Principles, Mixing consoles, EQ's, Cables, Mic's, Effects - each are dealt with in Duncans easy style, through to setting up and how to carry gear! The diagrams and pictures are reasonably informative, and helpful hints are peppered throughout, like "WATCH OUT! It's a favourite trick of headline band engineers to switch OUT the EQ on vital channels just to have a little fun at the support band engineer's expense!"

Out back in the appendix are neat lists of things that ought to occupy your case, things that you shouldn't take with you, a channel marker sheet, wiring codes, and a simple Pad design - shown below. There is also a very amusing section called 'rules for singers', from which the illustration on the right is purloined.

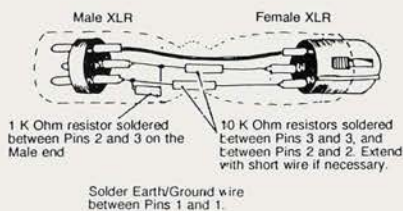
Duncan is truly qualified to write the book, having since the early 1980's been a partner in ARX, who build electronics and speaker cabinets for the PA industry. Best of all he resists the temptation to turn the book into a promo for his company, a rule your editor is attempting to enforce on these pages with sometimes mixed success.

The sequel - a companion volume to LIVE SOUND MIXING, is a book with the working title of "OLD DUNK'S TALES FROM THE ROAD" which we can hopefully obtain extracts from in the near future.

LIVE SOUND MIXING is available by mail order from AR Audio Engineering, Phone (02) 281-5252 or fax (02) 281-6969. The price including mailing is \$39.95. It's well worth it!



Simple PAD design



Rules for singers



Don't jump on the monitors or their owner may find a new place to store your mic stand!

GLOSSARY Biz talk ABC

H **Harmonic Distortion:** where unwanted harmonics are added to the original sound.

Headroom: Reserve space between operating level and maximum available level, usually expressed in dB. Always needed!

Hertz: not just a car rental firm, also another name for 'cycles per second'. A tone vibrating at 1000 times per second is said to be at a frequency of 1000Hz (1kHz).

High Pass: Circuit that stops low frequencies, sometimes a switch on a mixer.

Hiss/Hum: Unwanted noises.

Hook clamp: to rig lights on 48mm pipe.

High hats (snoots): Tube beam shaping device for Fresnel spots to kill spill.

Halogen: Gas inside quartz lamps.

Industry Joke Time

We don't normally beat up those who are less able to defend themselves than we, but ... one of Melbourne's leading Audio Identities relayed this little gem:

Q: "What's the difference between a toilet seat & a Monitor Engineer?"

A: "The toilet seat only has to deal with one arsehole at a time!"



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